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Department of State

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-10

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FM FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PN
TO FBIS WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//SCJ2 SCSA//
INFO COMANTDEFCOM ROOSEVELT ROADS PR
CDR 4TH PSYOP GROUP FT BRAGG NC
USAFSO/IN HOWARD AFB PN
CDR 470TH MI GP FT CLAYTON PN
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN
CDR 193D INF BDE FT CLAYTON PN
STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHDC
VOA WASHDC
FBIS CAVERSHAM/DW
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR ES
SECSTATE WASH DC //FOR ARA/CEN/ES//
NAVAL SECURITY GROUP ACTIVITY GALETA ISLAND PN
FBPA

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EL SALVADOR: GARCIA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 26 AUG

PA272107

PARIS AFP IN SPANISH 1738 GMT 27 AUG 81

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR, 27 AUG (AFP) -- LAST NIGHT COL GUILLERMO GARCIA, SALVADORAN DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER, PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE BEHEADING OF ALMOST 100 PERSONS THAT OCCURRED IN THE WEST OF THE COUNTRY THIS WEEKEND.

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO ATTENDED BY COL RAFAEL FLORES LIMA, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, GARCIA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AN OFFER MADE BY GEN LEOPOLDO GALTIERI, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY, LAST WEEK, IN WHICH GALTIERI OFFERED TO SEND TROOPS TO EL SALVADOR. GARCIA EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THAT "IT WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT."

THE DEFENSE MINISTER DESCRIBED THE MASSIVE KILLING AS "SAVAGE" AND ANNOUNCED THAT "WE HAVE ORDERED A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, TO TRY TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THIS INHUMANE ACTION."

"WE CONDEMN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT WHOEVER THEY ARE, BECAUSE THE ARMED FORCES HAVE NO COMMITMENTS TO ANYONE AND THEREFORE FEEL THAT WE ARE TRULY EXCLUDED FROM ANY ACCUSATION THAT MAY BE LEVELED AGAINST ANY INSTITUTION."

AFTER STRESSING THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE COMPLETE MILITARY CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY, "ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT TERRORIST ACTIONS," THE DEFENSE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY ARE STUDYING A PLAN FOR POLITICAL APPEASEMENT TO BE APPLIED AT THE INTERLABOR AND INTERPARTY LEVEL.

ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT THE PETITION FROM MANAGERIAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT JUNTA, GARCIA DESCRIBED AS "POSITIVE" THE SYMPOSIUM THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HELD IN LATE JULY IN WHICH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY GOVERNMENT WAS HARSHLY CRITICIZED.

THE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES WILL RECEIVE FOUR NEW U.S. HELICOPTERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, ALTHUGH HE REFUSED TO DISCLOSE THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE 10 HELICOPTERS THAT WERE DELIVERED EARLY THIS YEAR, "BECAUSE OF MILITARY SECURITY REASONS."

ACCORDING TO PRESS DISPATCHES FROM WASHINGTON, THESE HELICOPTERS ARE NOT OPERATING, SEVEN OF THEM HAVING BEEN DAMAGED BY THE GUERRILLAS.

COLONEL GARCIA COMMENTED THAT A NEW DELIVERY OF ONLY FOUR HELICOPTERS IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL ARMED FORCES AND REVEALED THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING, IN EFFORTS WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, TO OBTAIN NOT ONLY MORE HELICOPTERS OF THAT KIND BUT LARGER ONES AS WELL.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO ADMITTED THAT A NATIONAL POLICE STAFF SERGEANT, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A "TRAITOR TO THE INSTITUTION, THE FATHERLAND AND THE PEOPLE," DETONATED A BOMB INSIDE THE NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR 15 DAYS AGO.

HOWEVER, HE DENIED THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE HOLDING SOME 30 SOLDIERS WHO WERE CAPTURED IN PERQUIN, IN THE COUNTRY'S NORTHEAST, NOTING THAT WHEN THE FMLN CLANDESTINE RADIO ANNOUNCED THEIR NAMES AND RANKS THEY WERE IN A GARRISON IN SAN MIGUEL.

"WE CANNOT DISCUSS PRISONERS OF WAR. THERE ARE SOME SOLDIERS MISSING IN THE NORTHERN AREA OF THE MORAZAN DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, IF THEY (THE GUERRILLAS) HAVE ANY OF THEM AND WANT TO RETURN THEM THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY PROBLEM," THE MINISTER EXPLAINED.

FOR HIS PART, COLONEL FLORES LIMA MAINTAINED THAT THE FOREIGN SUPPLY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO THE REBELS CONTINUES AND THAT THIS SUPPLY NOW INCLUDES THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE COMING FROM CUBA AND NICARAGUA, ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE ARMY. (ENDALL) 271738 MVB/HART/CEB 27/2151Z AUG

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POL 13-11 Violence

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Valan DATE 10/14/82
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TS AUTH. REASON (S)
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